

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JENNY, et al.,  
Plaintiffs,  
v.

JOSEPH ANDREW MOLLICK,  
Defendant.

Case No. [23-cv-05634-AGT](#)

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO  
PROCEED WITH PSEUDONYMS**

Re: Dkt. No. 6


The defendant in this civil action, Joseph Mollick, was charged in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California for knowingly possessing child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(a)(4)(B) and (b)(2). Dkt. 1, Compl. ¶ 35. Mollick pled guilty in January 2023, and he was sentenced and a judgment was entered against him in May 2023. *Id.* ¶ 36. The plaintiffs, who were depicted in the images of child pornography seized from Mollick’s possession, brought this action for civil damages and have moved to proceed pseudonymously. Dkt. 6. Their motion is granted.

“[M]any federal courts, including the Ninth Circuit, have permitted parties to proceed anonymously when special circumstances justify secrecy.” *Does I thru XXIII v. Advanced Textile Corp.*, 214 F.3d 1058, 1067 (9th Cir. 2000). Such special circumstances are present when, as here, “nondisclosure of the party’s identity is necessary . . . to protect a person from harassment, injury, ridicule or personal embarrassment.” *Id.* at 1067–68. The plaintiffs have demonstrated the highly personal, intimate, and violative nature of the images at issue and have shown that they face continuing humiliation and harassment based on their victimization and sexual exploitation as young children. There is more than ample justification for allowing these vulnerable plaintiffs to protect their identities through the use of pseudonyms. The plaintiffs may therefore proceed in

this matter under the pseudonyms “Jenny,” “Raven,” “Anna,” “Cara,” “Lily,” “Sarah,” “Savannah,” “Skylar,” “Maureen,” “Violet,” “Jessy,” “Pia,” “Mya,” “Maria,” “Jane Doe,”<sup>1</sup> and “Alena Doe.”<sup>2</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: December 5, 2023

  
ALEX G. TSE  
United States Magistrate Judge

United States District Court  
Northern District of California

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<sup>1</sup> “Jane Doe” is the mother and conservator of two of the plaintiffs: “Skylar,” who is currently a minor, and “Savannah,” who is a protected person. *See* Compl. ¶¶ 15, 17.

<sup>2</sup> “Aleana Doe” is the mother and next friend of plaintiff “Maria,” who is currently a minor. *See* Compl. ¶ 29.